

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, IT

SUBJECT: BRANDT COMMENTS ON ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE

REF: ROME 16651

1. NEITHER CHAIRMAN BRANDT NOR ANY OTHER SENIOR SOCIAL DEMOCRAT MADE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AT THE NOVEMBER 11-15 NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS IN MANNHEIM. EMBASSY BONN WAS REPRESENTED THROUGHOUT. A CHECK WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AND SPD HEADQUARTERS HERE SUGGESTS STRONGLY HOWEVER THAT BRANDT INTER ALIA DID BRIEFLY WARN AGAINST THE DANGER OF PCI ENTRY INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN REMARKS DELIVERED TO A NOV. 12 CLOSED ROUND-TABLE GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDLY PARTIES FROM 38 COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE MARGIN OF THE CONVENTION. AT THE ROUND-TABLE THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS WERE THE NEAR EAST, THE NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC CLASH, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND CHILE. THESE WERE ALSO THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL THEMES OF THE CONVENTION ITSELF.

2. THE ITALIAN GUEST REPRESENTATION AT THE CONVENTION INCLUDED NOT ONLY PSI SECRETARY DE MARTINO BUT ALSO
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CARIGLIA OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. PSDI

SECRETARY TANASSI HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED, BUT HE BOWED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS DUAL ATTENDANCE, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE HIGHER PRIORITY ACCORDED THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL THEMES, THE ITALIAN QUESTION RECEIVED MINIMAL ATTENTION AT MANNHEIM.

3. A NOVEMBER 17 "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" ARTICLE, HEADLINED "DE MARTINO ARGUES WITH BRANDT, DOES REPORT HOWEVER A STATEMENT BY DE MARTINO TO THE ROME "PAESE SAERA" TAKING BRANDT TO TASK FOR HIS ALLEGED COMMENT. THE FAZ ARTICLE DOES NOT PINPOINT THE VENUE OF THE BRANDT DECLARATION. DE MARTINO HOWEVER PRESUMABLY HEARD IT AT THE SPECIAL ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION, SINCE HE WAS IN ATTENDANCE.

4. THUS FAR THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER ANY PRESS COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO DE MARTINO ON THE ITALIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION. SHOULD ANY EMERGE, THE TEXT WILL BE FORWARDED BY POUCH AS REQUESTED.

5. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PSI LEADER WAS NOT EXACTLY OVERJOYED BY HIS STAY IN MANNHEIM. HIS PRESENCE WAS GENERALLY OVERSHADOWED. HE WAS NOT PUBLICLY WELCOMED AS WARMLY AS HIS SPANISH, GREEK, AUSTRIAN, CHILEAN, SWEDISH, DUTCH, ETC. COUNTERPARTS.

6. EMBASSY BONN WILL BE REPORTING BY AIRGRAM IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON BROAD INTERNATIONAL ISSUES RAISED AT THE SPD CONGRESS. A COPY WILL BE FORWARDED TO EMBASSY ROME.
HILLENBRAND

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